

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANA 00120 101409Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 /088 W

-----101419Z 123400 /47

R 101230Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 064

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANA 0120

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: YE

SUBJECT: HAMD'I'S ASIAN TRAVELS

REF: JIDDA 0030 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. FROM OUR VANTAGE, WE SEE NO RPT NO ADVERSE SAUDI REACTION TO HAMD'I'S VISIT TO CHINA AND NORTH KOREA. IT IN SOME WAYS BUTTRESSES THE SWING HAMD'I HAS MADE FROM THE SOVIETS TO THE SAUDIS AND PROVIDES SOME POLITICAL ARMOR FOR HAMD'I AGAINST HIS LEFTIST ARAB CRITICS. END SUMMARY.

1. IT IS CLEAR TO EVERYONE HERE THAT IBRAHIM HAMD'I HAS TURNED THE YAR SHARPLY AWAY FROM THE POLICY OF HIS PREDECESSOR, ABDALL RAHMAN AL-IRYANI. HAMD'I HAS REDUCED YEMEN'S DEALINGS WITH THE LEFT IN THE ARAB WORLD AND WITH THE SOVIETS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MORE SAUDI SUPPORT. IRYANI ALWAYS WAS MORE DISTRUSTFUL OF THE SAUDIS AND, PERHAPS REMEMBERING SOVIET AID TO THE REPUBLIC IN THE PAST, MORE HOPEFUL THAT THE USSR COULD BE INDUCED AGAIN TO HELP OUT IN THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC FIELD. ALTHOUGH HAMD'I'S SWING TO THE RIGHT HAS BROAD SUPPORT IN YEMEN, HE MUST PROTECT HIMSELF FROM THE LEFT, WHICH INRONICALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANA 00120 101409Z

INCLUDES A LOT OF OPPORTUNISTIC TRIBAL ELEMENTS WHOM THE SAUDIS HAVE ABANDONED IN REACHING OUT TO HAMD'I.

2. HAMD'I DOES NOT FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT EITHER SAUDI SUPPORT IS SO STRONG OR THE YEMENI LEFT IS SO WEAK THAT HE CAN CUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNIST STATES OR WITH ARAB RADICALS. HE ALSO FEELS ESPECIALLY

GRATEFUL TO THE CHINESE, WHOSE HELP HAS BEEN GENEROUS AND NEVER USED TO PROMOTE POLITICAL POSITIONS OR INDUCE POLITICAL STANDS BY THE YAR.

2. NEVERTHELESS, WE THINK THE MEASURE OF HAMDI IN EYES OF SHREWD SAUDI VIEWERS IS NOT WHAT HE HAS PRESERVED IN YEMEN'S TRADITIONAL POLITICAL ORIENTATION BUT WHAT HE HAS GAINED IN NEW RELATIONSHIP (AND AVOWEDLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE) WITH THE KINGDOM. SAUDIS CAN MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR THE DESIRE AND NEED OF YEMENI PRESIDENT TO PARADE HIMSELF ON A WORLD STAGE, HOWEVER BRIEFLY AND RITUALISTICALLY, AND THEY CAN ALSO TAKE SATISFACTION IN KNOWING THAT EVERY STEP HE TAKES IN PEKING AND SHANGHAI IS ANOTHER WOUND TO SOVIET AMOUR-PROPRE HERE.

4. THE SOVIETS IN SANA ARE SAYING THAT THE CHINA TRIP WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT, BOTH BECAUSE THE YEMENIS PICKED UP ECHOES OF DOMESTIC DISORDER THERE AND DIDN'T GET ENOUGH NEW AID. AT THE SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO VALERY KRAVCHENKO, WELL-INFORMED COUNSELOR IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE, THE CHINESE PROMISED ONLY \$US 27 MILLION IN NEW FUNDS TO FINISH THE LARGE PRC ROAD PROJECTS HERE. KRAVCHENKO NOTES THERE WERE NO NEW PROJECTS AGREED ON, AND NO FURTHER MILITARY AGREEMENTS. WHAT WAS CLEAR TO KRAVCHENKO WHEN HE SPOKE TO THE DM ON JANUARY 8, HOWEVER, IS THAT CHINESE AID HERE HAS MADE AN IMPORTANT NEW DEPARTURE WHILE SOVIET AID IS PLEDGING THE LAST OF ITS 1964 CREDITS. THE PROSPECT IS FOR SOVIET AID TO CONTINUE TO DECLINE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SANA 00120 101409Z

CHINESE AID TO CONTINUE AT THE SAME LEVEL. MEANWHILE, U.S. MILITARY AID BEGAN AT LAST TO ARRIVE WHILE HAMDI WAS IN PEKING. KRAVCHNEKO ADMITS THIS. HE IS ALSO EXPLICIT ON THE RESPECT AND GRATITUDE OF THE YEMENIS FOR THE CHINESE, UNLIKE THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SOVIETS.

5. AS FOR THE YEMENI REACTION TO CHINA, WE JUDGE THAT IT APPEARS TO BE ONE OF CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT DESPITE WHATEVER INTERNAL TROUBLES THE YEMENIS MAY HAVE SENSED. KRAVCHENKO MAY TAKE SOME SOLACE IN THE FACT THAT HAMDI DIDN'T ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE DRAWN INTO PRC ANTI-SOVIET POLEMICS, BUT HE IS BLUFFING WHEN HE SAYS THE TRIP IS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THEM. QUITE THE CONTRARY. IT IS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE SOVIETS.

6. IN SHORT, WE SEE LITTLE IN THE HAMDI VISIT TO PEKING WHICH WOULD IRRITATE THE SAUDIS, AND WE BELIEVE MOREOVER THAT HE SPECIFICALLY CLEARED THE TRIP IN ADVANCE WITH KING KHALID AND OTHER SAUDIS.

7. AS FOR THE VISIT TO NORTH KOREA, IT WAS SHORT AND  
DEPRESSING.

8. IF EMBASSY JIDDA GETS OTHER VIBRATIONS ABOUT THE TRIP,  
WE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED TO HEAR OF THEM.  
SCOTES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SANA00120  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770008-1132  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SANA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770166/aaaacfwg.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 12f0b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 JIDDA 30  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3632271  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HAMDIN'S ASIAN TRAVELS  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PFOR, YE, CH, KN, (HAMDIN, IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD AL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/12f0b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009